

# INSIGHTS

## Labor Market Information

### Economic Indicators

March 2012

	United States	SC
Labor Force	154,707,000	2,157,641
Employed	142,034,000	1,964,617
Unemployed	12,673,000	193,024
Unemployment Rate	8.2%	8.9%

### Average Hours & Earnings

	United States	SC
Manufacturing		
Avg. Weekly Earnings	\$ 973.14	\$ 700.14
Avg. Weekly Hours	40.7	41.7
Avg. Hourly Wages	\$ 23.91	\$ 16.79

### Job Growth (Year Over Year)

	% Change
Myrtle Beach MSA	5.51%
Florence MSA	3.47%
Spartanburg MSA	3.36%
Charleston MSA	2.19%

### Labor Force Participation Rate

	2012	2011
U.S. Participation Rate	63.8%	64.2%
S.C. Participation Rate	59.3%	59.8%

### Employment to Population Ratio

	2012	2011
U.S. Population Ratio	58.5%	58.5%
S.C. Population Ratio	54.0%	53.6%

### United States Consumer Price Index

12-month CPI	2.7%
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### In the News LMI Has a New Website

SCWorks has put Labor Market Information at your fingertips! Find employment statistics, job forecasts, wages and demographics to help you better understand today's complex workforce.



<http://www.scworkforceinfo.com>

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

Employment  
3,540



Unemployment  
4,345



Unemployment  
Rate 0.2%



## Unemployment Rate Dips Below 9 Percent First Time in More Than Three Years

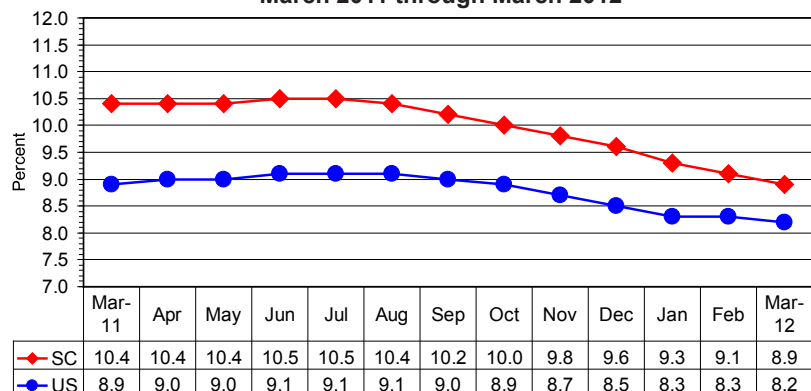
The state's estimated unemployment rate dropped to 8.9 percent in March, down from 9.1 percent in February. This is the eighth consecutive month the rate has declined. It is also the first time in more than three years the rate has been below 9.0 percent. This reflects an increasingly positive economic environment, where people are finding employment across many areas of the state.

Over the year, approximately 32,800 individuals found work. Industries supporting this increase in employment have been widespread, with Durable Goods in Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade, Retail Trade, Transportation and Warehousing, Employment Services, and Leisure and Hospitality leading the growth.

Employment continues to rise to a level not seen since the end of 2008. For March, employment was 1,964,617, and the number of unemployed persons declined by 4,345 to 193,024. The total labor force for March was estimated at 2,157,641. Nationally, the unemployment rate fell slightly from 8.3 percent in February to 8.2 percent in March.

When compared to March 2011, employment improved (+32,871), while the level of unemployed declined (-30,950) in the state.

U.S. & S.C. Unemployment Rates  
March 2011 through March 2012



*Insights is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The current month's estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. All estimates are projected from a first quarter 2011 benchmark.*

## March Unemployment Rates by County

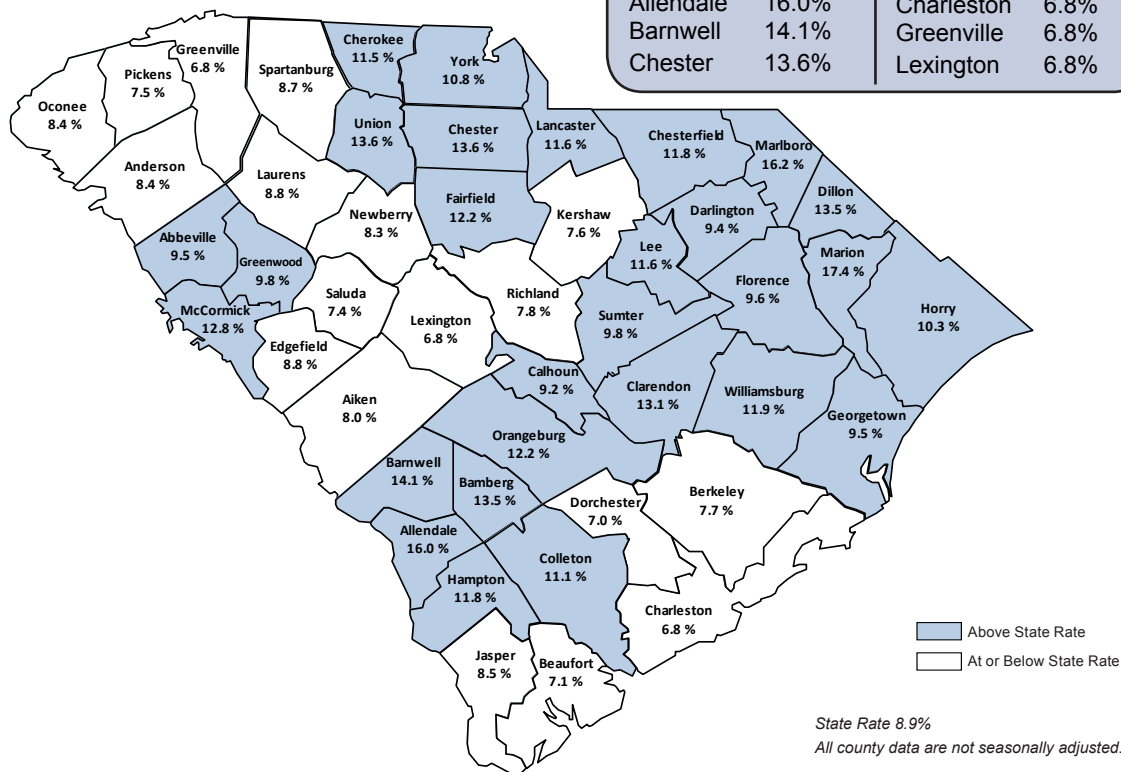
All county unemployment rate estimates fell from February to March 2012. The largest decreases were in Horry County (down 2.0 percent) and Allendale County (down 1.8 percent). Charleston, Greenville, and Lexington counties declined to 6.8 percent.

Since a year ago, 42 counties reported lower unemployment rate estimates, while Bamberg County remained unchanged. Gains were seen in Allendale, Edgefield, and Fairfield counties.

Horry County had the largest increase in employment with an upswing of 5,600, followed by Spartanburg County with approximately 3,500 people finding employment.

State	Unemployment Rates
Nevada	12.0
Rhode Island	11.1
California	11.0
D.C.	9.8
North Carolina	9.7
Florida	9.0
Georgia	9.0
Mississippi	9.0
New Jersey	9.0
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>8.9</b>
Illinois	8.8
Arizona	8.6
Kentucky	8.6
Oregon	8.6
Michigan	8.5
New York	8.5
Washington	8.3
<b>United States</b>	<b>8.2</b>
Indiana	8.2
Idaho	7.9
Tennessee	7.9
Colorado	7.8
Connecticut	7.7
Ohio	7.5
Pennsylvania	7.5
Arkansas	7.4
Missouri	7.4
Alabama	7.3
Maine	7.2
New Mexico	7.2
Louisiana	7.1
Alaska	7.0
Texas	7.0
Delaware	6.9
West Virginia	6.9
Wisconsin	6.8
Maryland	6.6
Massachusetts	6.5
Hawaii	6.4
Kansas	6.2
Montana	6.2
Minnesota	5.8
Utah	5.8
Virginia	5.6
Oklahoma	5.4
Wyoming	5.3
Iowa	5.2
New Hampshire	5.2
Vermont	4.8
South Dakota	4.3
Nebraska	4.0
North Dakota	3.0

Highest County Unemployment Rates	Lowest County Unemployment Rates
Marion	17.4%
Marlboro	16.2%
Allendale	16.0%
Barnwell	14.1%
Chester	13.6%
Beaufort	7.1%
Dorchester	7.0%
Charleston	6.8%
Greenville	6.8%
Lexington	6.8%



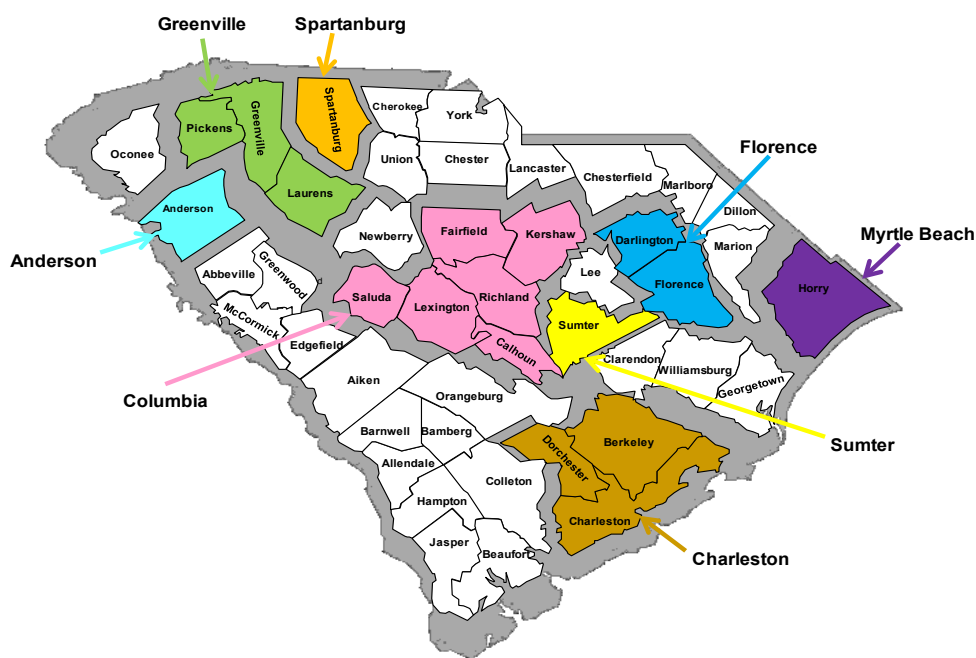
Unemployed			Unemployed			Unemployed		
Areas	March 2012	March 2011	Areas	March 2012	March 2011	Areas	March 2012	March 2011
Abbeville	1,010	1,287	Darlington	2,867	3,398	Lee	951	1,034
Aiken	5,961	6,576	Dillon	1,780	2,003	Lexington	9,003	9,951
Allendale	528	537	Dorchester	4,763	5,325	Marion	2,085	2,400
Anderson	6,883	8,024	Edgefield	976	988	Marlboro	1,877	2,085
Bamberg	828	848	Fairfield	1,330	1,237	McCormick	426	502
Barnwell	1,186	1,241	Florence	6,085	6,876	Newberry	1,503	1,779
Beaufort	4,504	5,283	Georgetown	2,833	3,361	Oconee	2,585	3,141
Berkeley	6,500	7,257	Greenville	15,132	17,880	Orangeburg	4,954	5,380
Calhoun	612	679	Greenwood	2,983	3,358	Pickens	4,354	4,786
Charleston	12,017	13,863	Hampton	910	1,046	Richland	14,022	15,801
Cherokee	2,847	3,229	Horry	13,063	15,339	Saluda	664	761
Chester	1,963	2,471	Jasper	892	977	Spartanburg	11,547	13,228
Chesterfield	2,207	2,520	Kershaw	2,231	2,564	Sumter	4,356	4,889
Clarendon	1,617	1,856	Lancaster	3,543	4,322	Union	1,546	1,820
Colleton	1,900	2,180	Laurens	2,703	3,123	Williamsburg	1,929	2,048
						York	11,993	16,657

## Unemployment Rates by Workforce Investment Areas (WIAs) March 2012



Catawba WIA	11.2%
<a href="http://www.catawbacog.org">www.catawbacog.org</a>	
Greenville WIA	6.8%
<a href="http://www.greenvillewib.com">www.greenvillewib.com</a>	
Lowcountry WIA	8.3%
<a href="http://www.lowcountryworkforce.org">www.lowcountryworkforce.org</a>	
Lower Savannah WIA	10.1%
<a href="http://www.lswia.org">www.lswia.org</a>	
Midlands WIA	7.5%
<a href="http://www.midlandsworkforce.org">www.midlandsworkforce.org</a>	
Pee Dee WIA	11.3%
<a href="http://www.peedeewib.org">www.peedeewib.org</a>	
Santee-Lynches WIA	9.7%
<a href="http://www.slworkforcedev.org">www.slworkforcedev.org</a>	
Trident WIA	7.1%
<a href="http://www.toscc.org">www.toscc.org</a>	
Upper Savannah WIA	9.1%
<a href="http://www.us1stops.com">www.us1stops.com</a>	
Upstate WIA	9.4%
<a href="http://www.upstatewib.org">www.upstatewib.org</a>	
Waccamaw WIA	10.3%
<a href="http://www.wrcog.org">www.wrcog.org</a>	
WorkLink WIA	8.1%
<a href="http://www.worklinkweb.com">www.worklinkweb.com</a>	

## Unemployment Rates by Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) March 2012



Anderson MSA	8.4%
Charleston-	
North Charleston-	
Summerville MSA	7.1%
Columbia MSA	7.5%
Florence MSA	9.6%
Greenville MSA	7.1%
Myrtle Beach-	
North Myrtle Beach-	
Conway MSA	10.3%
Spartanburg MSA	8.7%
Sumter MSA	9.8%

## South Carolina Monthly Employment Trends

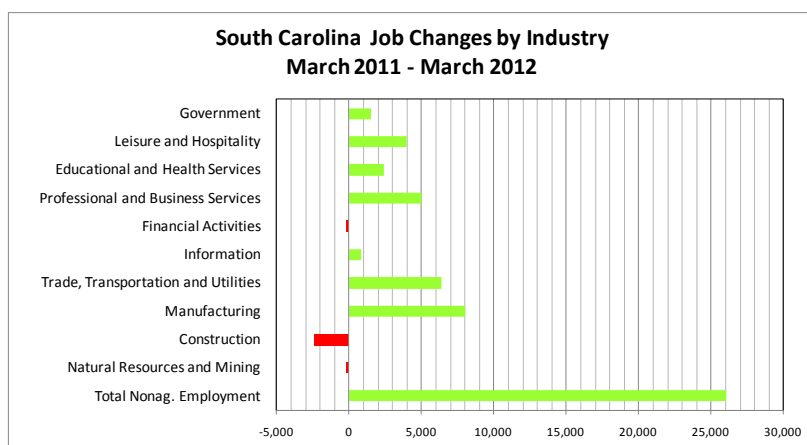
South Carolina's nonfarm employment saw an increase from February to March of 17,100 jobs, with notable gains in most major sectors. The arrival of spring brought a growth in Leisure and Hospitality (+8,400), which was concentrated in the Food Services and Drinking subsector. Trade, Transportation and Utilities was up by 3,800, mostly in Retail Trade.

Increases in Professional and Business Services (+2,600), Government (+1,400), Manufacturing (+600), and Construction (+200) were responsible for the gains. Education and Health Services declined by 900, with most of the downward movement in Health Care and Social Assistance. As the state enters the second quarter of 2012, the outlook remains encouraging.

Of the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Myrtle Beach (+5,300), Charleston (+2,600), Spartanburg (+2,200), and Columbia (+1,400) saw significant increases. Employment gains were also reported for Greenville (+900), Florence (+800), Anderson (+600), and Sumter (+400).

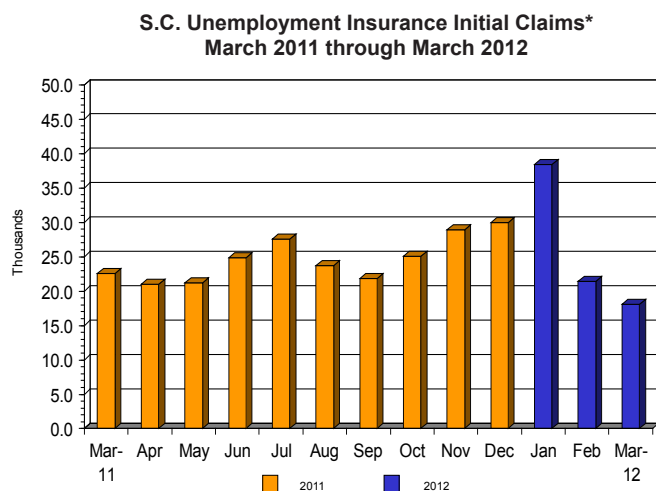
Looking at the previous 12 months, the state has seen growth in all of its metropolitan statistical areas except Anderson, which has declined by an estimated 2,400 Service-Providing jobs.

The state's average weekly manufacturing hours decreased by 0.4 hours over the month. Hourly wages increased by \$0.19. Over the year, hours have decreased by 0.7 hours with wages increasing by \$0.10.



## March Initial Unemployment Claims

South Carolina's initial unemployment claims experienced a decline of 3,278 between February and March. There were also 4,405 fewer claims than in March 2011. Regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits paid dropped \$3.8 million, which was down \$10.6 million from a year ago. Nearly 400 individuals exhausted their unemployment benefits from February through March. The average duration of benefits paid out fell from 16.4 weeks to 15.0 weeks over the past year.



### SC Unemployment Activities

Total Initial Claims*	18,114
Regular UI Benefits Paid	\$27,851,697
UI Benefits Exhausted	5,456
Average Duration Benefits Paid (weeks)	15.0
Average Weekly Benefits Amount	\$238.65

\* All programs

## Labor Supply Versus Labor Demand

### SC Workforce Areas:

#### Catawba

Chester County  
Lancaster County  
York County

#### Greenville

Greenville County

#### Lowcountry

Beaufort County  
Colleton County  
Hampton County  
Jasper County

#### Lower Savannah

Aiken County  
Allendale County  
Bamberg County  
Barnwell County  
Calhoun County  
Orangeburg County

#### Midlands

Fairfield County  
Lexington County  
Richland County

#### Pee Dee

Chesterfield County  
Darlington County  
Dillon County  
Florence County  
Marion County  
Marlboro County

#### Santee-Lynches

Clarendon County  
Kershaw County  
Lee County  
Sumter County

#### Trident

Berkeley County  
Charleston County  
Dorchester County

#### Upper Savannah

Abbeville County  
Edgefield County  
Greenwood County  
Laurens County  
McCormick County  
Newberry County  
Saluda County

#### Upstate

Cherokee County  
Spartanburg County  
Union County

#### Waccamaw

Georgetown County  
Horry County  
Williamsburg County

#### WorkLink

Anderson County  
Oconee County  
Pickens County

The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series, which is an independent business and research association, reported the number of online job advertisements in South Carolina increased approximately 1,600 (to 52,500) from February to March 2012. This was a gain of approximately 100 online postings from March a year ago. On the national level, there was a rise in total ads (+246,300) over the past year.

In South Carolina, ads climbed most in the Trident workforce area (12,935), followed by the Midlands area (11,154). Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (10,174) had the highest number of advertisements in the state. The jobseekers per job opening rate was 3.7 in March, down from 3.9 in February.

The table below shows a breakdown of numbers and a ratio of jobseekers to job openings by workforce area.

Workforce Areas March 2012 Data	Job Openings	Jobseekers	Jobseekers Per Opening Ratio
Catawba	2,584	17,499	7:1
Greenville	9,292	15,132	2:1
Lowcountry	3,240	8,206	3:1
Lower Savannah	2,078	14,069	7:1
Midlands	11,154	24,355	2:1
Pee Dee	2,971	16,901	6:1
Santee-Lynches	1,415	9,155	6:1
Trident	12,935	23,280	2:1
Upper Savannah	1,190	10,265	9:1
Upstate	3,333	15,940	5:1
Waccamaw	5,343	17,825	3:1
Worklink	2,647	13,822	5:1
South Carolina (SC)	52,500 (SA)	193,024 (SA)	4:1
United States (U.S.)	4,669,600 (SA)	12,700,000 (SA)	3:1

SA=Seasonally Adjusted

#### Sources:

- The Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® data series;
- The U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics;
- The South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Labor Market Information